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NORTH LONSDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1963.



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NORTH LONSDALE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1963

Divisional Health Offices,
Brogden Street,
Ulverston.

October, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the
North Lonsdale Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1963.

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	127,448
Population - Census, 1961	16,598
Registrar General's Estimate of home population, mid 1963	15,950
Number of inhabited houses	5,891
Rateable Value	£369,712
Amount produced by a Penny Rate	£1458.2.10.

The district is entirely rural in character, the northern portion being typical lakeland country with lakes and fells merging into the more southern portion which extends to the coast and forms part of the northern shores of Morecambe Bay. Two lakes, Coniston and Esthwaite, as well as two-thirds of the shores of Lake Windermere are wholly contained in the District.

The principal industry is agriculture, with the hotel and catering industry playing a prominent part during the summer season.

VITAL STATISTICS

The principal vital statistics for 1963 and for the preceding five years are given on page two.

Of the 220 births registered, 106 were males of which 1 was illegitimate and 114 were females of which 3 were illegitimate.

Approximately 74.6% of the deaths were in persons of 65 years of age and over and the main causes of death were:- Heart disease 96, Vascular Lesions of nervous system 46 and Malignant growths, 56. Of the 96 deaths from heart disease 59 were due to Coronary artery disease.

The adjusted live birth rate of 16.1 per 1,000 and the adjusted death rate of 10.1 per 1,000 can be compared with the corresponding rates for England and Wales of 17.3 per 1,000 and 12.2 per 1,000 respectively.

Year	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popul- ation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births
1963	220	13.8	256	16.1	3	13.5	Nil	Nil	3	13.6	2	9.1
1962	200	12.5	233	14.5	4	19.6	Nil	Nil	2	10.0	1	5.0
1961	201	12.6	241	15.1	7	33.7	Nil	Nil	2	10.0	2	10.0
1960	236	14.9	231	14.5	5	20.7	Nil	Nil	3	12.7	2	8.5
1959	182	11.4	230	14.4	4	21.5	Nil	Nil	4	22	3	16.5
1958	207	12.9	245	15.3	4	19	1	4.74	4	19.3	1	4.8
Average 5 years 1958-62	-	12.9	-	14.8	-	22.9	-	0.95	-	14.8	-	9.0

Adjusted live birth rate 1963 (comparability factor 1.17) = 16.1 per 1,000
Adjusted death rate 1963 (comparability factor 0.63) = 10.1 per 1,000

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:-

J.L. WILD., M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Other Appointments Held:-

Medical Officer of Health -

Dalton-in-Furness Urban District
Grange-over-Sands Urban District
Ulverston Urban District

Divisional Medical Officer -

Health Division: No. 1 -
Lancashire County Council.

Senior Public Health Inspector:-

H.C. CLAYDON, Certificate Royal Sanitary
Institute. Certificate of Royal
Sanitary Institute - Meat and
Other Foods.

Additional Public Health Inspector:-

D.M. PICKLES, Certificate - Royal Sanitary
Institute. Certificate Royal
Society of Health - Meat and
Other Foods.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER SUPPLY

The provision and maintenance of public water supplies for the whole of the District is now the responsibility of the Furness Water Board, with the exception of a small part of the parish of Cartmel Fell, for which the Lakes and Lune Water Board is responsible.

A small new source of supply was taken into use during the year, namely, Farra Grain Beck, Satterthwaite. The water is filtered and chlorinated. The mains were extended in various parts of the District mostly to supply existing properties.

Supplies were generally adequate in quantity throughout the year with the exception of the Allithwaite district where the pressure appears to be insufficient to meet peak demands. When necessary, the Allithwaite supply is augmented by a well, the water from which is chlorinated and pumped into the mains. It is a hard water but bacteriological and chemical analysis have shown that it is quite potable.

The quality varies considerably according to the source of supply and the time of year. The low Furness district, supplied from the Pennington treatment works, and the Cartmel Valley district, supplied from the Newton treatment works are consistently good bacteriologically, although slight discolouration occurs in the latter occasionally. The Boretsee Tarn supply, also, although untreated is generally of good quality. The remainder of the district is supplied from numerous small sources, the majority of which are untreated. They are usually of reasonably good quality during the winter months but during the summer months the level of animal pollution reaches disquieting proportions. Even those which are chlorinated suffer from the same defects, it having proved impossible to maintain the correct dose of chlorine when the level of pollution of the raw water varies from day to day. An additional hazard is now becoming noticeable due to the increasing popularity of camping. Many campers do not use the approved camping sites and there is no doubt that the catchment areas of some of the water supplies will prove an attractive alternative. The introduction of a comprehensive scheme to replace the many small sources of supply is a necessity to safeguard the health of the public.

The serious pollution which occurred to the Egton supply is described in the report of the Senior Public Health Inspector.

58 samples of water from the untreated supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination with only 20 satisfactory results.

51 samples of treated water were examined bacteriologically with 31 satisfactory results.

It is estimated that there are some 1,450 houses using private supplies. 27 samples were examined from these supplies of which 13 were satisfactory.

I am indebted to the Engineer of the Furness Water Board for much of the detailed information given in the table on page 5.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Details of the methods of sewage disposal have been kindly supplied by the Engineer and Surveyor and are given on pages 6 and 7.

The Bouth sewer-extension scheme was completed during the year and the Coniston sewer extension scheme was begun.

32 new and 17 existing houses were connected to the sewerage system and 25 new and 27 existing houses to septic tanks. 53 privies were converted to fresh water closets, and 12 to pail closets. It is estimated that there are now some 5,500 dwellings on a water carriage system but there remain over 350 privies.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly collection of refuse is maintained from premises where dustbins are provided and a five or six weekly collection is made from ashpits and privy middens, (except the majority of farms). Disposal is to eight semi-controlled tips in various parts of the district.

Supplies to houses:

NORTH LONSDALE RURAL DISTRICT

Parish (1)	Nb. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1961		Supply to all houses at end of year					
	Existing houses (2)	New houses (3)	From public mains				From private supplies e.g. wells, springs.	
			Direct to houses		By standpipe		No. of dwelling houses (8)	Est. No. of population (9)
			No. of dwelling houses (4)	Est. No. of population (5)	No. of dwelling houses (6)	Est. No. of population (7)		
Aldingham	-	10	313	870	-	-	7	20
Allithwaite Lr.	1	3	507	1380	-	-	44	170
Allithwaite Uppr.	-	5	246	640	-	-	11	40
Angerton	-	-	5	20	None in Parish	-	-	-
Blawith	-	-	-	-		-	52	120
Broughton East	-	-	28	100		-	26	85
Broughton West	-	1	274	780	-	-	47	140
Cartmel Fell	-	-	23	50	-	-	120	260
Claife	-	1	147	390	-	-	39	130
Colton	-	-	112	320	-	-	257	620
Coniston	-	-	306	940	-	-	52	150
Dunnerdale	1	-	1	4	-	-	73	170
Egton with Newland	1	6	152	400	-	-	187	450
Haverthwaite	-	4	225	650	-	-	52	150
Holker Lower	-	4	440	1260	-	-	53	160
Kirkby	-	2	396	1100	-	-	33	90
Hawkshead	-	2	223	610	-	-	14	30
Lowick	-	1	36	110	-	-	46	110
Mansriggs	-	-	1	4	-	-	11	30
Osmotherley	-	-	45	140	-	-	49	200
Pennington	-	4	408	1270	-	-	9	30
Satterthwaite	23	-	23	70	-	-	81	220
Skelwith	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	250
Staveley	-	2	111	300	-	-	28	75
Subberthwaite	-	-	9	20	-	-	16	45
Torver	-	-	24	80	-	-	39	115
Urswick	-	1	387	1110	-	-	7	20

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

<u>Township</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>Method of Disposal</u>
Aldingham	Leece	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters.
	Gleaston	Sewage tank.
	Scales	Two sewage tanks with overflow to land.
	Baycliffe	Sewage tanks with outfall to sea.
	Newbiggin	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Allithwaite Lower	Allithwaite	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to sea.
	Cartmel	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Eca.
Allithwaite Upper	Lindale	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to River Winster.
	Newton	Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to stream.
Broughton East	Field Broughton	Sewage tank.
Broughton West	Broughton-in-Furness	Sewage tank with overflow to tidal water of River Duddon.
	Foxfield	Tidal waters of River Duddon.
Claife	Near Sawrey	Sewage tanks.
	Far Sawrey	Two sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
	Colthouse	Sewage tank with overflow to stream.
Colton	Bouth	Sewage disposal works with overflow to stream.
	Oxenpark	Sewage tank with overflow to land.
Coniston	Coniston	Five large sewage tanks with overflow to stream.
Egton	Greenodd	Tidal waters of Morecambe Bay.
	Pennybridge	Sewage tank.
	Sparkbridge	Sewage disposal works, with outfall to river.
Haverthwaite	Haverthwaite	Sewage tank with overflow to river.
	Backbarrow	Sewage tank with overflow to river. Sewage disposal works at Finsthwaite Lane.
Hawkshead	Hawkshead	Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
	Outgate	Sewage tank with outfall to land. Sewage disposal works with outfall to stream.

Holker Lower	Cark Ravenstown Flookburgh	Sewage tank with outfall to sea. Sewage disposal works with tanks, and filters. Pumping plant discharging sewage to enlarged works at Ravenstown, outfall to stream.
Kirkby Ireleth	Sandside Chapples Soutergate Marshside	Sewage tank with outfall to tidal water of River Duddon. Sewage tank with outfall to stream. Sewage tank with outfall to sea. Sewage tank with outfall to tidal waters
Lowick	Lowick Green	Sewage tank with outfall to River Crake.
Osmotherley	Beehive Three Bridges	Tank with outfall to stream. Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Pennington	Swarthmoor Trinkeld Loppergarth Cross-a-Moor	Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council Sewage disposal works with tanks and filters, outfall to stream. Outfall works of Ulverston Urban District Council.
Satterthwaite	Satterthwaite	Private sewer to works with outfall to stream.
Staveley	Staveley Ayside Torver	Private sewer to tank with out- fall to stream. Sewage Disposal Works with out- fall to stream. Sewage tank with outfall to stream.
Urswick	Gt. Urswick Little Urswick Stainton Bardsea	Sewage tanks with outfall to tarn. Sewage tanks with outfall to tarn. Sewage tanks with outfall to land. Sewage tanks with outfall to sea.

HOUSING

(1) Number of new dwellings erected during the year:-		Houses	Flats
(1) By the local authority		14	-
(2) By other local authorities		-	-
(3) By other bodies or persons		52	5
(2) <u>Total No. of Council-owned dwellings existing at end of year</u>		393	
(3) <u>Inspections of dwellings during the year:-</u>			
(1) (a) Total No. of dwellings inspected formally or informally for housing defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts)		557	
(b) No. of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose		764	
(c) No. of dwellings in (a) above found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit		220	
(2) Total No. of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which			
(a) Demolition Orders have been made (at any time)		34	
(b) Demolition or Closing Orders have not yet been made		151	
(4) <u>Houses Demolished:-</u>		Houses Demolished.	Displaced during year
In Clearance Areas:			Persons Families
(1) Houses unfit for human habitation		5	13 6
(2) Houses included by reason of bad arrangement		-	- -
(3) Houses on land acquired under Section 43(2) Housing Act, 1957.		-	- -
Not in Clearance Areas		Nil	- -
(5) <u>Unfit Houses Closed:-</u>		Nil	
(6) <u>Unfit Houses Made Fit and Houses in which Defects were Remedied</u>		By Owner	By Local Authority
(1) After informal action by local authority		14	-
(2) After formal notice under (a) Public Health Acts (b) Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act, 1957		11 Nil	- -
(3) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957		-	-

(7) Unfit Houses in Temporary Use (Housing Act, 1957):-

Nil

(8) Houses in Clearance Areas Purchased by Agreement

Nil

(9) Housing Act, 1949 and Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958 - Improvement grants etc.

No. of dwelling houses or other buildings affected in schemes of -

Action taken during the year:-

Private Bodies or individuals	Local Authority
-------------------------------	-----------------

- (1) Submitted by private individuals to local authority
- (2) Approved by local authority
- (3) Submitted by local authority to Ministry
- (4) Finally approved by Ministry
- (5) Work completed
- (6) Additional separate dwellings included in (5) above

47

-

47

-

-

-

-

-

54

-

14

-

(10) House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, Standard Grants:-

No. of dwellings or other buildings affected

Action during year:

- (1) Applications submitted to local authority
- (2) Applications approved by local authority
- (3) Work completed

34

34

20

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 to 1959

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

1. <u>Premises</u>	Number on Register	Number of:		
		<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	4	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	86	38	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
2. <u>Cases in which defects were found</u>	Found	Remedied	<u>Referred</u>	
Particulars			<u>To H.M. Inspector</u>	<u>By H.M. Inspector</u>
Want of cleanliness (S1)	2	2	-	3
Overcrowding (S2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	-	-	-	1
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S7)	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	-	2
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following table shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases which occurred in the North Lonsdale Rural District during the five years 1958-1962 compared with the number in 1963.

	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Scarlet Fever	13	11	6	4	4	3
Measles	398	85	112	130	39	209
Whooping cough	43	0	10	41	0	3
Meningococcal Infection	0	0	1	0	0	0
Pneumonia	3	5	0	5	3	1
Erysipelas	1	2	1	2	0	0
Dysentery	4	0	25	1	0	44
Food poisoning	22	2	1	27	0	1
TOTALS	484	105	156	210	46	261

Most of the cases of measles occurred in the first and second quarters of the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of new cases of tuberculosis and mortality during 1963.

Age Periods	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25-	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
35-	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
45-	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
55-	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
65-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
75 and upwards	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Totals	4	1	0	0	2	2	0	0
	5		0		4		0	

The table below shows the numbers of new cases and deaths from tuberculosis in North Lonsdale Rural District residents during the past 12 years.

Years	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1952	8	4	2	3	1	0	1	0
1953	6	3	2	1	3	1	1	0
1954	8	5	0	1	2	1	1	0
1955	1	5	1	0	2	0	0	0
1956	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
1957	2	5	0	0	2	1	0	0
1958	3	5	1	0	2	1	0	0
1959	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
1960	3	3	0	0	1	1	0	0
1961	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
1962	3	3	0	0	1	2	0	0
1963	4	1	0	0	2	2	0	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Details regarding the inspection of food, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared are given in the Public Health Inspectors Report.

Milk sampling continued, 37 samples being submitted for biological examination. All were free from Tubercle bacilli but 4 were found to contain Brucella organisms.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1949 & 1951

It was not found necessary to take any action under these Acts during the year.

In conclusion it is my pleasure to thank the Members of the Health Committee and the Officers of the North Lonsdale Rural District Council, particularly the Public Health Inspectors for their unfailing courtesy and help.

The report of the Senior Public Health Inspector is appended.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

J.L. WILD.

Medical Officer of Health.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1963.

I beg to submit the report for the year 1963 on the work of the Public Health Inspector's Department.

Summary of Inspections made during the year.

Public Health Acts, 1936 - 1961	280
Caravan Sites & Camping Sites	131
Housing Acts, 1957	276
Rent Act, 1957	1
Housing Applications	371
Catering Establishments	90
Food Preparing Premises (including shrimp pickers dwellings)	240
General Food Premises	39
Ice Cream Premises	21
Hawkers	7
Milk & Dairies	47
Slaughterhouses	370
Factories Act, 1937 - 1959.	42
Clean Air Act, 1956	1
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	2
Waste Foods Order	16
Shops Act, 1950	12
Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963	3
Water Supplies	400
Verminous Premises	7
Infectious Diseases	7
Schools	5
Rodent Control (including visits by Rodent Operator).	3331
Miscellaneous	179

Total Number of Inspections 5375

General Information.

No. of licensed premises	67
No. of unlicensed hotels and guest houses	20) See
No. of cafes and snack bars	28) Note 1
No. of hostels	7
No. of works and school canteens	18
No. of Greengrocers shops	2
No. of Bakers and/or Confectioners	10
No. of General Food shops	68
No. of shops selling mainly ice cream and minerals	13
No. of Registered Ice Cream Premises (Manufacture)	1
No. of Registered Ice Cream Premises (Retail)	89
No. of Registered Hawkers	53
No. of Registered Hawkers premises	36
No. of Domestic premises registered for Shrimp Picking	193
No. of Licensed Slaughterhouses	3
No. of Licensed Slaughtermen	37
No. of Premises registered under Diseases of Animals (Waste Foods) Order, 1957	8
No. of Caravan Sites Licensed under Caravan Sites and Control of Development Acts, 1960	78
No. of Caravans on Licensed Sites	1250
No. of Factory premises registered (Mechanical and non-mechanical)	93
No. of Butchers shops	8

Note 1. These figures do not include the many domestic premises and farmhouses which during the summer months do occasional catering

HOUSING.

The progress made by the Council during the year to provide new housing accommodation was very limited and a serious shortage still existed in several parts of the district. A study of the applications for tenancies of Council houses reveals that in the main there are three types of applicant, firstly the young married couples living with in-laws, secondly people living in dwellings which lack the facilities of a bathroom and piped hot water supply and thirdly elderly people who are living in dwellings which are remote from village communities and wish to be nearer to a shopping centre and other services. In recent years the number of applicants in the second category has increased considerably and this indicates that there is a growing community which is not satisfied with the conditions under which their parents have lived for the past fifty years or more. Many of the dwellings which this type of applicant occupy are in fact capable of modernisation and it might be argued that the Improvement Grant schemes could well take care of the situation. It is true to say however that of the 81 applications approved during the year very few were in respect of tenanted dwellings, and this fact stresses that the financial rewards which are offered to landlords are not sufficiently attractive to be of interest in an age when other more lucrative investments are available. It remains to be seen whether or not the Housing Bill now before Parliament proposing to introduce a measure of compulsion in the matter of the improvement of privately owned tenanted houses will be the answer.

The declining profitability of owning tenanted houses has tended to reduce the number of dwellings available for letting, and today most of them are sold with vacant possession as soon as possible. It seems therefore that in time families will have only two alternatives - either to become an owner occupier or to be the tenant of a local authority owned dwelling.

Although very few Council dwellings were completed for the ordinary applicant, some progress in the re-housing of people from totally unfit and irreparable dwellings was achieved, in that 11 families from Cark and Lindale were re-housed from Clearance Areas.

Confirmation of a Clearance Order involving 5 dwellings at Little Urswick was received from the Ministry but similar confirmations of Orders submitted at the same time in 1962 in respect of a further 6 dwellings at Little Urswick and 7 at Gleaston were still awaited. Demolition Orders or Closing Orders upon 8 individual unfit dwellings at Great Urswick were made and Undertakings were accepted in the case of 2 dwellings at Plumpton. Preliminary inspections for a proposed Clearance Area at Swarthmoor comprising some 40 dwellings were carried out.

This report is being prepared at a time when it is clear that the next one will reveal a much brighter position in regard to new Council housing. I refer of course to the comparatively large project at Great Urswick which is designed in part to accommodate the Low Furness Clearance Area families, the small scheme at Haverthwaite for similar purposes and the availability of new dwellings at Swarthmoor to re-house a number of tenants in Demolition Order properties.

The shortcomings of the Discretionary and Standard Grant schemes have been referred to earlier, but nevertheless approval was given to 47 and 34 applications respectively, resulting in a raising of accommodation standards generally.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD & FOOD PREMISES

In every local authority's district, public health administration involves a considerable amount of routine inspection, for the most part an unspectacular and unrewarding task. Food catering in the summer months being one of the staple industries in this area, it follows that much of the routine practice concerns frequent inspection of hotels and cafe premises in addition to food shops. The main purpose served is an attempt to forestall contraventions of the Food Hygiene Regulations before any question of prosecution arises, and I think it can be said that the efforts made by the Department are successful in this respect. The almost complete absence of food poisoning in the district would give weight to this view, but it would be folly to assume an air of complacency on this score. Food preparation can be a most dangerous business in public health affairs, but such is the state of staff shortage in the catering business that proprietors are forced to accept workers with little or no conception of the principles in clean food handling. Ideally employers should themselves have an appropriate qualification and all workers in a Utopian catering world would hold a diploma of some sort, but this does not seem likely to come about in the foreseeable future. For the time being at least the fear that at any time a careless action on someone's part can cause an outbreak of illness on a comparatively large scale must be lived with. Frequent inspections, advice where deemed to be necessary, and attention drawn to shortcomings are the best measures which the Public Health Department of any local authority can adopt in such a situation.

Reference has been made in previous reports to the number of domestic premises registered for the purpose of shrimp picking in the area. At the end of the year this number stood at 193 and to the best of my knowledge no other authority has to deal with the problem on this scale. I have said before and make no apology for repeating it, that the circumstances whereby a food, sold to the public in such great quantities is partially prepared in so many premises, present a hazard of no little significance. Admittedly all the premises registered are satisfactory at the time of registration, and the pickers have all received a copy of a code of practice setting out the requirements to be observed. Adequate and proper supervision fall short however when it is realised that it is impracticable for even one visit per year to be made to the premises at the time when shrimp picking is taking place. It is not unknown for twenty houses to be visited in the course of an afternoon, even in the season, with only two or three householders being actively engaged in picking at the time.

On a brighter front I can report that the standard of food premises of all types is improving gradually. The days of defective flagged kitchen floors, wooden sinks and table tops have for the most part disappeared and the new materials of a modern age are now generally accepted as a necessity.

WATER SUPPLIES

For the fourth successive year it can be reported that no general shortage of water due to drought conditions arose. The most significant development by the Furness Water Board in the area was the new supply which was provided in the Satterthwaite district. Sampling of all public supplies for bacteriological examinations was stepped up compared to the previous year and the results revealed that a higher percentage of the chlorinated supplies were completely satisfactory. The position with regard to untreated supplies showed little change and merely underlined the shortcomings of these sources during the summer months when the gathering grounds are grazed.

A combination of weather conditions involving a frozen ground surface with a rapid thawing of snow and manure spreading operations resulted in a very serious instance of animal pollution involving the Egton supply. For several days water of a colour nearer to that of mild beer was delivered through the house taps and it was decided to advise people not to use the water or if they had to, to boil it first. The Water Board laid on a supply by cart. The most surprising aspect of this incident was that no complaints were made to the public health department until four or five days after the pollution commenced.

The lack of a wholesome public water supply to the Newland and Arrad Foot areas is a serious menace to the inhabitants, as it is true to say that pollution of the existing springs and wells yields water which may be regarded as dilute animal sewage.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The provision of new sewer systems must of necessity be a slow business and the year brought about nothing spectacular in the way of tangible progress. The Bouth sewer extension scheme was completed, but much of this work was carried out in the previous year. The scheme to supersede privy middens with water closets proceeded and during the year 53 dwellings were improved in this way most with the aid of Improvement Grants, or procedure under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (local authority paying half cost).

MEAT INSPECTION

The Meat Inspection Regulations 1963, which came into force on the 1st October, 1963, replacing the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924, brought about several administrative changes in the system of meat inspection at slaughterhouses. For the first time local authorities were faced with a legal requirement to carry out this work. Previously the matter had carried only a moral obligation, although in most areas this obligation had in fact been honoured. With effect from the appointed date all carcasses found to be fit for consumption were required to be stamped by the inspecting officer of the local authority, the stamp being a personal one to indentify the officer concerned.

In order to assist authorities which would find this duty an excessive financial burden the Regulations empowered them to make charges, not exceeding a specified sum upon the licensees of slaughterhouses where animals are slaughtered. The permitted charges are as follows:-

Bovine animal, not including a calf	2/6d
Calf or pig	9d
Sheep or lamb	6d.

Following the consideration of a report which I submitted at the September meeting of the Public Health Committee, it was decided by the Council that charges be made upon the three licensees of slaughterhouses in the area. This new departure was quite naturally not welcomed by the persons concerned, it being argued that other authorities in the district had not imposed charges, and that the work of meat inspection was to the advantage of the population at large and not to the butchers.

During the year no diseased meat necessitating appreciable condemnation was found at the slaughterhouses, such action being limited to the rejection of offals only. The system of inspection and subsequent judgement followed the procedure laid down in the new Regulations.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	545	4	2552	6
Number Inspected	545	4	2552	6
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticercosis</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	58	-	41	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticercosis	10.82%	-	1.64%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-

CARAVANS & CAMPING

At the end of the year a total of 78 caravan sites were licensed in the district. The following table gives some detail of the respective sizes of the sites.

No. of sites containing	1 caravan	33
" " "	2 - 5 caravans	11
" " "	6 - 10 caravans	9
" " "	11 - 20 caravans	11
" " "	21 - 40 caravans	4
" " "	41 - 60 caravans	4
" " "	61 - 100 caravans	4
" " "	101 - 125 caravans	2

The imposition of public health conditions on one site was the subject of an objection heard at the Hawkshead Magistrates Court during the year, the decision being in favour of the Council. The objection concerned a requirement to provide water closet sanitation on a site containing 20 caravans.

Once again inclement summer weather restricted tented camping actively and apart from one exception, the situation gave cause for little concern. The exception was at Blawith Common where no proper facilities exist and control is virtually impossible. At Bank Holiday periods the Common is used for camping to a considerable extent, and some effective control should be looked for to safeguard public health. It will be recalled that I drew attention to this matter in my Report for 1962.

One prosecution for an infringement of the Council's Tented Camping Bye-laws on a site at Torver resulted in a conviction, the offence concerning non-provision of a satisfactory water supply.

RODENT & VERMIN CONTROL

This essential work continued satisfactorily throughout the year. New contracts were secured to the amount of £24 bringing the total value of contracts in force at the end of the year to £184:17:0. No serious infestations of the Council's sewers was discovered, but the refuse tips claimed much of the operator's time. Warfarin was used as the destructive agent in almost all cases and no resistance to this method was experienced.

	Non-Agricultural		Agricultural
	Dwelling Houses	All other	
No. of properties in district	5,037	1,623	654
No. of properties inspected	1,327	874	136
Total inspections carried out (incl. re-inspections)	2,182	955	194
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:			
Rats - major	54	2	5
minor	304	41	57
Mice - major	20	2	2
minor	56	2	19
No. of infested properties	434	47	83
Total treatments carried out (incl. re-treatments) ...	534	89	83
No. of "Block" control schemes carried out	Nil	Nil	Nil

In concluding my report, I would take this opportunity of expressing appreciation to Mr. D.M. Pickles, Additional Public Health Inspector, Mr. E.W. Blezard, General Clerk and Mr. J. Berry, Rodent Operator, for their excellent co-operation shown during the year.

H.C. CLAYDON.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

